



# Littlefield Letters



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APRIL 1990

No. 4

## MUSTER CALL

date: Thursday  
12 April 1990  
time: 6:15 p.m.  
Mess Call  
place: Wyatt's Cafeteria  
Hancock Center

We need a large crowd this month to welcome an outside speaker. Robert H. Thonhoff will speak to us on "The Forgotten Battlefield of the First Texas Revolution." This is a different type program for us. It is about the South, but takes place before the 1860's. This is the title of his book about the Battle of Medina which took place on 18 August 1813.

Our speaker was a school principal for 25 years. He has authored many articles on the State of Texas. He is the recipient of the La Bahia Award in 1970. He is the emcee at the Texas Folklife Festivals. He will also bring some of his books which he will be more than glad to autograph for you. His son went to Tex. Luth. College with John Hagler.

## NEW ENLISTMENTS

We welcome our newest member, RONALD LLOYD POTTS, who was voted and installed into membership in the SCV at our March meeting. Ron joins the SCV upon the record of his Great Great Grandfather Fleming Parker Jennings who was a Private in Co. C, 16th Tex. (Flournoy's Tex. Reg't, 7th Tex. Reg.) He served from 22 March 1862 to 28 February 1865 when he was discharged. Ron is an automated data processing record control clerk being born on June 1 at Corpus Christi. Add his address to your rosters: 2501 Lake Austin Blvd. #B105, 78703.

## WAR SERVICE MEDALS

As a special event at April's meeting, we will award two SCV War Service Medals to compatriots who served their country in time of war. Our recipients are Compatriots Ross Shipman, and Buck Tinsley. Join us in congratulating these two Confederates for their service.



The Texas Division Executive Council met on the eve of the Confederate History Symposium in the beautiful Battle Abbey Room of the CRC. We were all glad to hear that the Tex. Div. now boasts 21 camps and will have later this month, 23 camps. How about that! The Convention Call went out for our Division Convention to be held at the Midland Hilton on June 15 & 16. Good speakers and many activities are planned to make this an enjoyable time for all. Details and a reservation form will be printed in the May issue of the newsletter. We need your participation!

The Council acted on several matters to come before its attention. It was decided to reprint the Division history after the June Convention. We decided to raise the scholarship we give to Hill College CRC by \$100. Preliminary work was done on a proposal to establish a Division Essay Contest. Certain "housekeeping" amendments were discussed to the new Constitution passed last June in San Antonio. Camps were urged to find delegates to attend the National Convention to be held in Fayetteville Ark. the second week in August.

#### THE RED RIVER CAMPAIGN

A Confederate private confided in his diary after the Battle of Mansfield, "We are fighting for our property and homes."

Mike Parrish shared information concerning "General Richard Taylor and the Red River Campaign of 1864" with us at our March regular monthly meeting. He gave to everyone present a handout to accompany his talk. He suggests that if you are interested in reading about this campaign that you consult the following books:

Bailey, Anne. Between the Enemy and Texas: Parson's Texas Cavalry Brigade. Ft. Worth: TCU Press, 1989.

Barr, Alwyn. Polignac's Texas Brigade. Houston: Gulf Coast Hist. Assoc., 1964.

Bergeron, Arthur W., Jr. Guide to Louisiana Confederate Military Units 1861-1865. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 1989.

Blessington, Joseph P. The Campaigns of Walker's Texas Division, by a Private Soldier. New York: Lange, Little & Co., 1875.

Brown, Norman D., (ed.). Journey to Pleasant Hill: The Civil War Letters of Captain Elijah P. Petty, Walker's Texas Division. San Antonio: Inst. of Texan Cultures, 1982.

Gallaway, Benny. Ragged Rebel: The Reminiscences of a Common Soldier. Austin: Univ. of Texas Press, 1989.

Harrington, Fred H. Fighting Politician: Major General N.P. Banks. Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania, 1948.

Johnson, Ludwell H. The Red River Campaign: Politics and Cotton in the Civil War. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 1958.

Kerby, Robert L. Kirby Smith's Confederacy: The Trans-Mississippi South, 1863-1865. New York: Columbia University, 1972.

Parks, Joseph H. General Edmund Kirby Smith. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 1954.

Taylor, Richard. Destruction and Reconstruction: Personal Experiences of the Late War. New York: Longman's Green & Co., 1955. Edited by Richard B. Harwell from the 1899 first edition.

Winters, John D. The Civil War in Louisiana. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 1963.

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## "THE SOUTHERN ARTILLERYMAN"

Steven Vanderhoof has been a regular "substitute" with the Littlefield Battery while working on his paperwork to join the SCV. He also has attended camp meetings quite regularly. Your editor found Steven to be quite a poet and prevailed upon him to allow this poem to be printed.

"The Northern beast stretching out  
his hand

to crumble our cause to dust;  
so the artilleryman will do his duty  
and what he truly must.

With thunderous booms the cannons  
speak,  
of destruction they evoke;  
and deliver the (grey-clad) shot and  
shell  
with murderous fire and smoke.

With a cunning eye cast along  
the barrel of the piece;  
the gunner aims the muzzle true  
until this war will cease.

Number one stands ready with the ram,  
to load another round;  
that number two received from five,  
to bring the Yankees down.

Number three is at the vent  
with implements in hand;  
for yet another protector  
of this Old Dominion land.

Number four stands at the ready,  
waiting for the command;  
with friction primer in the vent  
and lanyard in his hand.

Number six and seven,  
in charge of the limber chest;  
making sure the charge is set  
to the gunner's shouted request.

Load the gun with grape or shot,  
with shell or cannister too;  
to turn the ebbing Northern tide,  
to whip the devil blue.

The broken bodies and limbless souls  
are all that will remain;  
after all the shots are fired,  
the South will sustain.

Now every Southerner has a job  
and duty to perform;  
to keep his homeland free and safe  
from the Northern blue-clad storm.

Steven J. Vanderhoof

2-20-90

## THE BOY SOLDIERS

A thirteen year old soldier hears  
a Confederate drillmaster. Was he an  
unusual case? Not so. He was among  
the students of VMI pressed into ser-  
vice by the CSA. Fighting was not the  
only thing these teenagers did. Many  
were buglers and drummer boys. But  
they served side by side with the  
older men, winning honors and losing  
lives for their bravery.

This war was fought by the very  
young. Only 10% of the soldiers on  
both sides were over 30 and only 40%  
were over 25. Their youth and inex-  
perience often led them into trouble  
that their older compatriots did not  
experience. "Spanking instead of  
shooting" was recommended as a pun-  
ishment by Pres. Lincoln once. How-  
ever most stories concern their hero-  
ism. CSA Private John M. Sloan, 13,  
of the 9th Tex., upon losing a leg in  
battle, said that he only regretted  
not being able to "get at the enemy."

In the beginning, both sides tried  
to prevent those under 18 from enlist-  
ing. Many lied about their ages. On  
the Confederate side about 5% of those  
who served were under 18; of the Union  
slightly below 10% were below that  
age. This is often disputed, but  
pictorial evidence suggests far more  
teenagers went into battle than can  
be gleaned from official lists.

They matured rapidly. Some rose to  
high rank. Union soldier Arthur Mac-  
Arthur began as a color bearer at 18,  
winning the Medal of Honor for lead-  
ing a charge at Missionary Hill. By  
the end of the war he was a Lt. Gen.  
His son was Douglas MacArthur.



## BRAWLING BRASS: NORTH AND SOUTH

The Confederate Research Center is republishing Colonel Simpson's first book, Brawling Brass: North and South as a tribute to his 30 year career as an author and publisher. During that time, Col. Simpson authored, co-authored, or edited 27 books and 14 articles on Confederate and American military history.

Brawling Brass is the interesting and revealing story of the intrigue quarrels and inept leadership that plagued the high command of both the Confederate and Union armies during the Civil War (sic).

This second edition will have an added introduction about Col. Simpson by Dr. W.R. Auvenshine, 16 photographs of the Colonel taken between 1960 and 1988, and an appendix listing Col. Simpson's books and articles.

The book will sell for \$12 plus tax and postage. Twenty-five copies will be reserved for the special edition in leather which will cost \$75 plus tax and postage. The book will be released on 31 March at the Confederate History Symposium.

The cost of republishing the book is being underwritten by friends of the Colonel including the Cabell Camp Johnston Camp, Hood's Texas Brigade, and the Texas Division SCV. It has been out of print for nearly 30 years.

### NEW DIXIE DONORS

Many thanks to our newest DD's who "stock" our Confederate treasury:

Rodney Leist  
Edwin Smith

Bob Winston  
J.L. Wood, Jr.

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**SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS**

**Major George Washington Littlefield Camp No 59**

**5914 Sunshine Drive • Austin, Texas 78757**

**Gregory T. Hector, Editor**

1989  
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Littlefield Brigade

These Compatriots have contributed \$10 or more toward the publication of this newsletter and the continuation of the Cause.

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